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# Special Memorandum

FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION TO  
CHANGE IN U.S. ADMINISTRATION  
(19-25 NOVEMBER)

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## SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Sparse comment from sub-Saharan African states continues to focus on the expected impact of the new administration on the problems in southern Africa. Rhodesia's Ian Smith stated, in a 19 November interview, that he had been assured that a change in the U.S. administration would "in no way" affect agreements he had already concluded with Washington. The 24 November **Zambian DAILY MAIL** echoed earlier black African comment in expressing the hope that the Carter administration would be "more precise, farsighted, and determined" than the Ford Administration in working toward ending racism in southern Africa.

Monitored **Angolan** media are not known to have commented on the new administration; however, evidence of official optimism about Carter's policies was cited in a 17 November **AFP** dispatch from Luanda. The French news agency quoted **Angolan** Government circles as expressing hope for better relations with the new administration and confidence that Carter would have more respect for the right of all countries to make their own decisions.

## LATIN AMERICA

President-elect Carter's remarks on the human rights issue and its application to Chile in his 15 November press conference drew no official response from **Santiago**. But Chilean President **Augusto Pinochet** was reported by Santiago radio on the 18th as "strongly denying" foreign reports that the Chilean Government was influenced by the incoming U.S. administration in its decision to release Chilean political prisoners, announced on the 16th. According to the radio, **Pinochet** rejected reports that he had been influenced by Carter, declaring that "I do not let anybody influence me," and that the release "was arranged in September."

There has been no official reaction from Brazil to Carter's news conference remarks bearing on the West German-Brazilian nuclear agreement and the long-planned sale of **FRG** nuclear energy equipment to Brazil. According to the **JORNAL DO BRASIL** on 17 November, Foreign Ministry spokesmen had been instructed to "maintain a rigorous silence" on the subject. But **O ESTADO SAO PAULO** on the 17th strongly criticized Carter's approach to foreign policy matters as one of "before being questioned, talk," and said that Carter's attitude

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was "not in line with that of the president of a nation which has always proclaimed its adherence to international agreements."

In Peru, Economy and Finance Minister **Luis Barua** welcomed the new **administration**, saying "we are really happy" that Carter will become president and calling the Democratic Party "much more amenable" to dialog and sensitive to Latin problems. In remarks reported by **AFP** on the 20th, **Luis Barua** said Peru would ask the new administration to revise the United States' recently-trebled sugar import tariff and added that **Peru** has "great expectations" that the tariff problems will be overcome. Colombian President Lopez **Michelsen** followed a middle course in an **interview reported** by Panama television on the 22d, commenting that "not only for Latin America, but on any topic, Carter is a puzzle," and **withholding** opinion until **his** choice of secretary **of state** and his approach to problems are known.